

MTC Advisory Council

2005 Work Plan

Areas of Interests / Role of Advisory Council

I. Implementation strategies for the Transportation and Land Use Policy Platform

MTC includes six strategies in the Transportation 2030 Plan to implement the initial five-point Transportation/Land-Use Policy Platform adopted by the Commission in December 2003. They are as follows:

- (1) Prioritize transportation investments that maintain the existing core transportation network,
- (2) Reserve appropriate funding from the TLC/HIP and T-PLUS programs for land-use planning around existing or future transit corridors and stations,
- (3) Encourage local jurisdictions to incorporate changes to local general plans that support transit-oriented development around Resolution 3434 stations,
- (4) Support the coordination of transportation/land use beyond transit corridors,
- (5) Coordinate transportation/land use issues with regional neighbors, and
- (6) Develop joint planning projects with partner agencies to implement the transportation/land use platform and the Smart Growth Vision.

Transportation 2030 Calls to Action on this topic include: condition transit funds on supportive land use, provide more land-use planning funds to partners, develop joint planning projects with regional neighbors, create smarter suburbs and evaluate progress and performance.

Role: The Advisory Council can provide input into the implementation of these transportation/land use strategies to staff and the Commission as they are developed. As appropriate, the Advisory Council will comment directly to the Commission on important actions related to transportation and land use. Members may continue to participate on any task forces established by MTC specifically for this purpose. The Council may wish to consider its involvement in the following specific areas related to the transportation/land use implementation strategies:

A. Transportation for Livable Communities/Housing Incentive Program

- Provide input on the effectiveness of the TLC/HIP programs based on reports from on-going staff evaluation of the programs. Based on these reports, recommendations may be made to revise TLC/HIP program guidelines.
- Interested members of the Advisory Council can participate on the MTC Project Review Team that evaluates TLC/HIP applications and recommends funding.

B. TOD Study and Resolution 3434 Policy (Regional Transit Expansion)

- Provide input and guidance on the final TOD policy before adoption by the Commission in June.

C. Station Area Plans

- Provide input and guidance into the development of the new Station Area Planning Program
- Provide assistance in awarding and monitoring of the pilot cycle of station area planning grants.

D. New MTC Parking Policy Study

- Provide input into a new study investigating innovative parking policies and transit usage around TOD in the Bay Area.

F. Smart Growth Tours

- Attend periodic tours highlighting Bay Area TOD, etc. Advisory Council members will be invited to attend tours to build their transportation/land-use knowledge base by learning details about actual projects to better inform Advisory Council discussion on transportation/land use policies and programs.

II. High Occupancy/Toll Lanes

During Transportation 2030 revenue discussions, the Advisory Council provided input on the strategy to develop a regional high occupancy/toll (HOT) lane network. As outlined in the Transportation 2030 Plan, MTC plans to further assess this strategy in an effort to both relieve congestion, as well as generate additional revenue to fund transportation projects.

Transportation 2030 Calls to Action on this topic include: evaluate pilot HOT lane programs, put legislation in the fast lane and cooperate with Caltrans/CHP to effectively implement a HOT lane system.

Role: The Advisory Council can provide comment and recommendations on the development and implementation of a regional HOT lane policy. The Council may wish to consider its involvement in the following specific areas related to developing a HOT lane strategy:

A. HOT Network Feasibility Study and Implementation Plan

- MTC applied for a Caltrans grant to do a HOT network feasibility study and implementation plan. If MTC is awarded the grant (award anticipated in Spring 2005), Advisory Council members can provide input and comment on implementation of the grant.

B. Update on HOT Lane Projects in the Bay Area

- Three HOT lane projects are underway in the Bay Area –
 - VTA HOT Lane Feasibility Study in the south bay,
 - I-680 HOT lane deployment in Alameda County and
 - Alameda County I-580/I-680 FAIR Lanes Feasibility Study (evaluation of providing subsidies for low-income users).

In an effort to build Advisory Council members' knowledge base to better inform discussion on developing a regional HOT lane strategy, periodic reports can be made to the committee on the progress/results of these projects/studies.

III. Freight and Goods Movement

In 2004, the Advisory Council heard a status report on the Regional Goods Movement Study – a collaboration between MTC, the Port of Oakland, the Economic Development Alliance for Business, the Bay Area Council (BAC), and others. Discussion will continue as next steps are developed on policy affecting regional goods movement.

Transportation 2030 Calls to Action on this topic include: focus on several I-880 corridor improvements, consider options for expanding capacity in the I-580 corridor, improve access to the Port of Oakland, focus on air cargo projects, and encourage local communities to preserve land for freight-related uses.

Role: Staff will seek input from the Advisory Council on policies that are developed to improve goods movement in the Bay Area. For example, as land-use and smart growth policies are further developed and implemented, what will the impact be on goods movement?

In addition, staff may seek input on specific goods movement topics from a sub-committee of interested Advisory Council members. Discussion (and input) will return to the larger group at key decision-making stages.

IV. Transit Connectivity

Pursuant to the requirements of Regional Measure 2, MTC staff will convene a follow-up Transit Connectivity Study to build upon the findings of this effort, and to further develop recommended improvements.

Transportation 2030 Calls to Action related to this topic include: fully implement the TransLink® System, establish a regional system of hubs and services, improve customer information and assistance and consolidate transit operations.

Role: The Advisory Council can provide input at key stages during the Transit Connectivity Study, such as on transit hub selection, recommended improvements to selected transit hubs and the draft transit connectivity report.

V. Transit Efficiency and Effectiveness

A key issue emerging from Phase One of Transportation 2030 is the challenge of maintaining and sustaining the existing transit system, and future planned expansions. Phase One identified regional investments that fully fund the most critical transit capital needs, but leave \$5.6 billion unfunded. As part of the analysis, it was also estimated that six of the ten largest operators would have operating shortfalls over the 25-year horizon to maintain the level of service on the street today. Ensuring transit sustainability will require some combination of cost controls and revenue enhancement. This is particularly true for those systems planning significant transit expansions as part of Resolution 3434. In addition, competition among operators for scarce transit funding will require that greater attention be paid to the efficiency and equity implications of funding allocation.

Transportation 2030 Calls to Action relevant to this topic include: condition capital replacement funds, extend useful life of vehicles/reprioritize capital replacement, dedicate sales tax funds to transit operations and maintenance, functionally consolidate or institutionally merge transit operators, urge BART to propose a second bond measure to address capital replacement.

Role: Staff will present the committee with an overview on the issues associated with transit sustainability, what has been accomplished, and what challenges lie ahead. Staff will provide the committee with options for engaging in the topic – either at the committee level, or through existing avenues outside of Advisory Council meetings.

VI. Legislative Influence

MTC will pursue a number of legislative issues in 2005 based on its adopted legislative program, which the Advisory Council reviewed before its adoption. Some of the larger issues to tackle include:

- State Budget - proposed suspension of Proposition 42 in FY 2005-06
- Constitutional Amendment to protect Proposition 42 - November 2005 ballot
- Bay Bridge redesign/solution to funding shortfall
- Potential legislation on housing/land use
- Federal reauthorization of TEA 21

Role: Advisory Council members can choose several legislative issues that they would like to focus and provide comment on, and provide recommendations to the Commission as appropriate. In addition, staff can alert Advisory Council members about MTC's position on legislative issues so that members may choose to take a course of action through organizations related to the interests that members represent on the committee.